



Monterey County Quick Bites

Mike Hale : Posted: 05/05/15, 9:47 AM PDT

Wharf celebrates salmon season

Recreational salmon fishing season kicked off April 4, and May 1 marked the start of commercial salmon season.

Restaurants at Old Fisherman's Wharf are celebrating the arrival of fresh King salmon from the Monterey Bay, with eateries Café Fina, Crab Louie's Bistro, Old Fisherman's Grotto and Big Fish Grill featuring special salmon entrees.

Visit montereywharf.com for more information and restaurant details.

Barnyard welcomes Asian fusion eatery

On Thursday, Asian fusion restaurant Namu Fine Asian Cuisine will open in The Barnyard Shopping Village.

Offering Japanese and Korean selections, it replaces Korean restaurant Soban Grill and Bar, which opened last year.

The Barnyard is off Highway 1, near Carmel Valley Road and Carmel Rancho Boulevard. Call 624-3318 for information.

Brewer's dinner honors Beer Week

To celebrate American Craft Beer Week, Peter B's Brewpub is hosting a brewer's dinner from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, May 11, at Portola Hotel and Spa, 2 Portola Plaza.

The five-course meal will include food by executive chef Jason Giles and a pint of Peter B's Raspberry Wheat, a seasonal beer that will have its debut that night. Space is limited and reservations are required at 649-7874.

The dinner kicks off a week of activities at Peter B's that includes nightly giveaways. Stay up to date on details, including the brewer's dinner menu, via www.portolahotel.com/dining/brewpub.

Jennini chef cooks for MEarth benefit

Jennini Kitchen + Wine Bar's Jeffrey Weiss will cook for a MEarth benefit dinner on Wednesday, May 20, at the Hilton Bialek Habitat.

Weiss is one of a select group of Americans to earn the prestigious ICEX culinary scholarship, which allowed him to live in Spain and learn regional cuisines. He continues to rack up accolades for his book "Charcutería: The Soul of Spain."

The event, part of MEarth's Sustainable Chef Dinner Series, is held in the environmental education nonprofit's LEED-certified cooking classroom and limited to 30 attendees. Tickets are \$65 and must be purchased in advance at brownpapertickets.com.

There is an optional tour of the organic gardens at 5:30 p.m., followed by the family-style, multi-course dinner at 6 p.m.

The Habitat is at 4380 Carmel Valley Road, adjacent to Carmel Middle School. For more information, visit mearthcarmel.org.

Alvarado, turning 1, gets gold for beers

Three beers from Alvarado Street Brewery and Grill were recently awarded gold medals in the Los Angeles and San Diego international beer competitions.

The Mai Tai received the gold for International Style Pale Ale and Monterey Common for German-style Alt Bier in L.A., and Smokestack Lightning won gold for Smoked Beer in San Diego.

Three other beers won silver: Minesweeper and Milk Stout in L.A. and Alta California Pale Ale in San Diego.

Alvarado Street Brewery and Grill, 426 Alvarado St., [turns 1 year old this month](#), and it's hosting a series of events Thursday through Sunday, including the release of its Anniversary Ale — an Imperial stout — on Friday. Other activities will include a backyard barbecue and surprise guest brewery on tap Sunday.

For more information, including a full schedule of anniversary events, call 655-2337 or see www.alvaradostreetbrewery.com.

Celebrate fruits and vegetables May 21

Monterey County and the City of Salinas are proclaiming Thursday, May 21, the first "Eat More Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Day."

The “holiday,” which will be celebrated every year on the Thursday before Memorial Day, will promote the idea that eating more fresh fruit and vegetables is easy, delicious and vital.

Dole Fresh Vegetables of Monterey is behind the designation, for which it will post special fruit and vegetable recipes, tips, nutritional insights and related content on social media.

For more information, see dole.com.

Rio chef honored by culinary group

The American Culinary Federation Monterey County Chapter has announced Cy Yontz from Rio Grill as its Celebrated Chef of the Year for Monterey County. There will be a May 30 awards ceremony at Portola Hotel and Spa in Monterey.

Rio Grill showcases a different winery on the first Thursday of each month, and will continue the series through the end of 2015. On May 7, the featured winery is Comanche Cellars; visit between 5 and 7 p.m. to meet the winemaker and receive complimentary tastes. Yontz will create a menu addition that pairs with the wine.

Rio Grill is at 101 Crossroads Blvd. in the Crossroads Shopping Center. Call 625-5436 or see www.riogrill.com.

Quick Bites, your weekly helping of Monterey County restaurant, food and wine news, is compiled by Tara Fatemi Walker. Contact her at montereyheraldfood@gmail.com.